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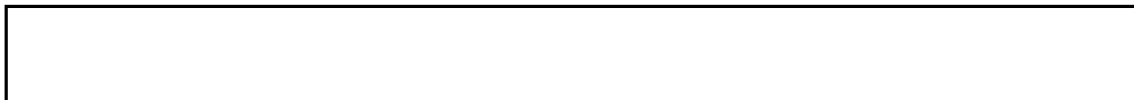
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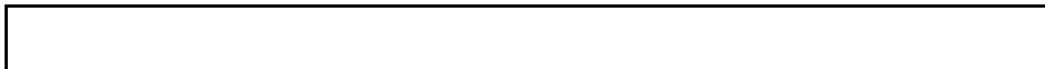


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COMMUNIST CHINA: The continued absence of a member of the elite politburo standing committee raises suspicions that he has become a victim of another round of factional quarreling at the top levels of the regime.

Chen Po-ta, Mao Tse-tung's longtime confidant and personal secretary, has not appeared in public for three months and the regime has offered no explanation for Chen's failure to show up with other ranking leaders on occasions when his presence would seem obligatory. Although it is difficult to believe that Chen has somehow lost Mao's patronage, the way in which his prolonged absence from public view has been handled appears strikingly similar to the circumstances surrounding the recent ouster of another politburo member, public security minister Hsieh Fu-chih.

Chen, who is 65, could be ill. But it is puzzling that press commentary on last month's National Day turnout in Peking did not follow the past practice of noting that some leaders were absent due to illness. Instead, the coverage of the event employed the unprecedented device of alphabetically listing Chen's standing committee colleagues, Chou En-lai and Kang Sheng, together with the remainder of the politburo, suggesting a clumsily contrived effort to downplay Chen's absence.

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Chen was criticized for undisclosed sins at the major party plenum held from late August to early September. An attack on Chen, taken together with the fall of Hsieh Fu-chih, should be followed by serious repercussions, but there are as yet only tenuous signs of disunity among the remaining leaders. Most, including Mao himself, have been appearing with unusual regularity since late summer, suggesting that Peking has taken pains to maintain a "business as usual" facade at the top.

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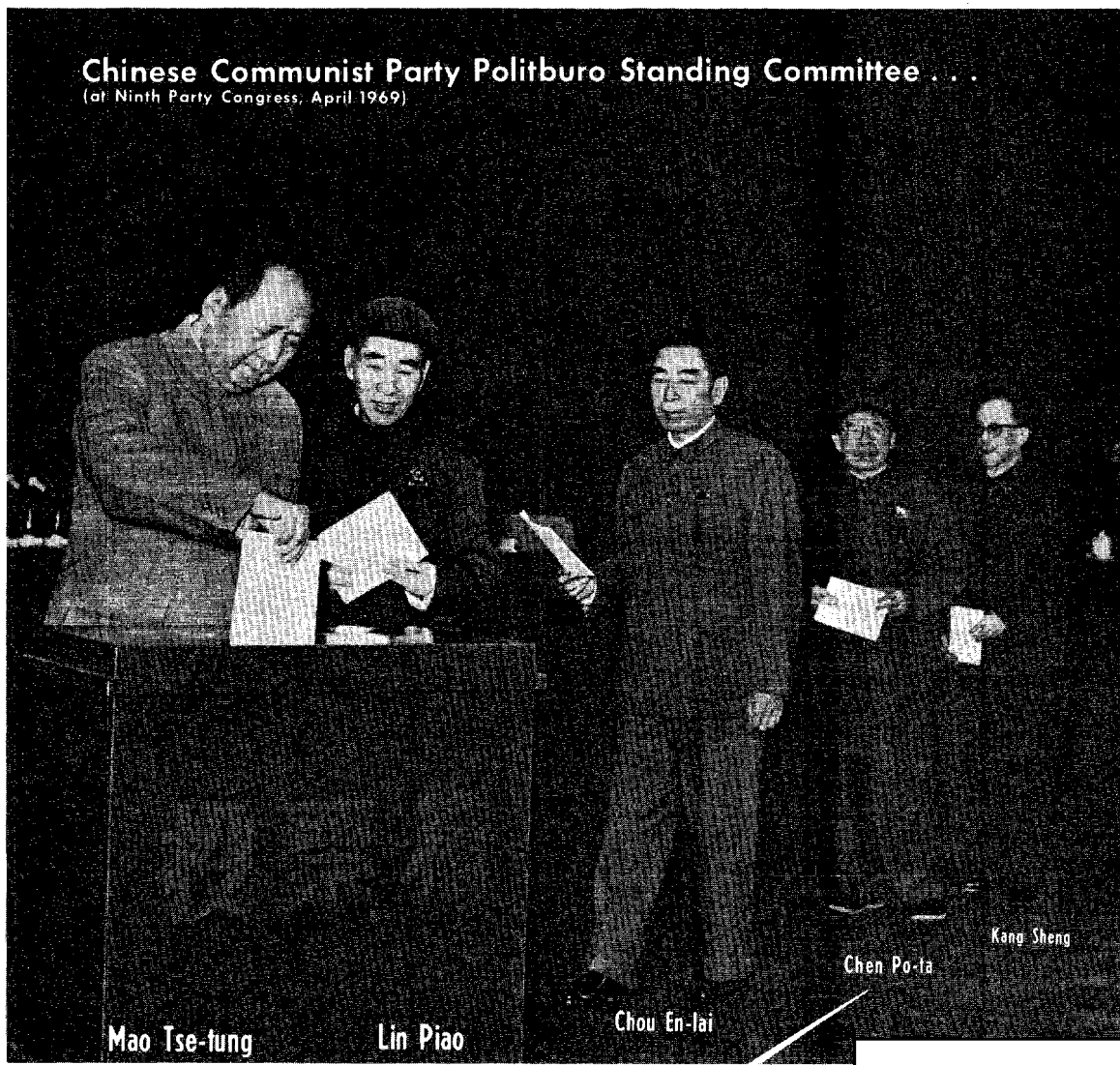
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. . . does Chen's vote no longer count?

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Nevertheless, the recent unpublicized removal of some first- and second-echelon leaders--including several provincial government heads and possibly the commander of the Peking garrison--reflects the continuing tension and instability within the power structure. Peking's refusal since the Ninth Party Congress in April 1969 to provide an authoritative and comprehensive "pecking order" for the new politburo also suggests that the regime is still struggling to resolve the power relationships among competing interest groups which comprise the present elite.

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JORDAN: A serious outbreak of fighting between fedayeen and government forces has threatened the truce in Amman.

Fighting began yesterday morning when [redacted] a public security patrol tried to pick up two armed fedayeen. The resulting exchange of fire spread throughout the capital during the day. Streets were blocked by trash containers and vehicles were set afire; shops were quickly shuttered and pedestrians disappeared from the streets. Most of the incidents were located in the area north and west of the US Embassy, where much of the fighting took place during the recent crisis, although some trouble had occurred near the center of town.

By nightfall in Amman the firing appeared to have fallen off, with preliminary reports of casualties listing five dead and eight wounded. Joint patrols under the Arab truce commission were assisting the internal security forces in securing a cease-fire. The truce commission hoped to use the hours of darkness as a cooling-off period during which the situation could be brought under control. In this it may be helped by the heavy program of religious and social events normally scheduled during the current holy month of Ramadan.

Just before midnight in Amman the government radio issued a low-key account of the events. It claimed that the public security forces had been able to contain the crisis; [redacted]

[redacted] The radio added that the government is "determined to achieve peace and security for the public." [redacted]

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Soviet YAK-40 Tri-jet Transport



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USSR: A YAK-40 tri-jet transport aircraft, one of two purchased by a small Italian airline last year, has been delivered.

These planes, which have no direct Western equivalent, are the first to be sold to a Western country and, to meet Italian specifications, have been equipped with Western avionics and communications equipment. Moreover, the Italian airline has signed a dealership agreement to market the YAK-40 in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. In addition, Ariana Afghan Airlines reportedly agreed to purchase three YAK-40s for delivery by mid-1971 [REDACTED]

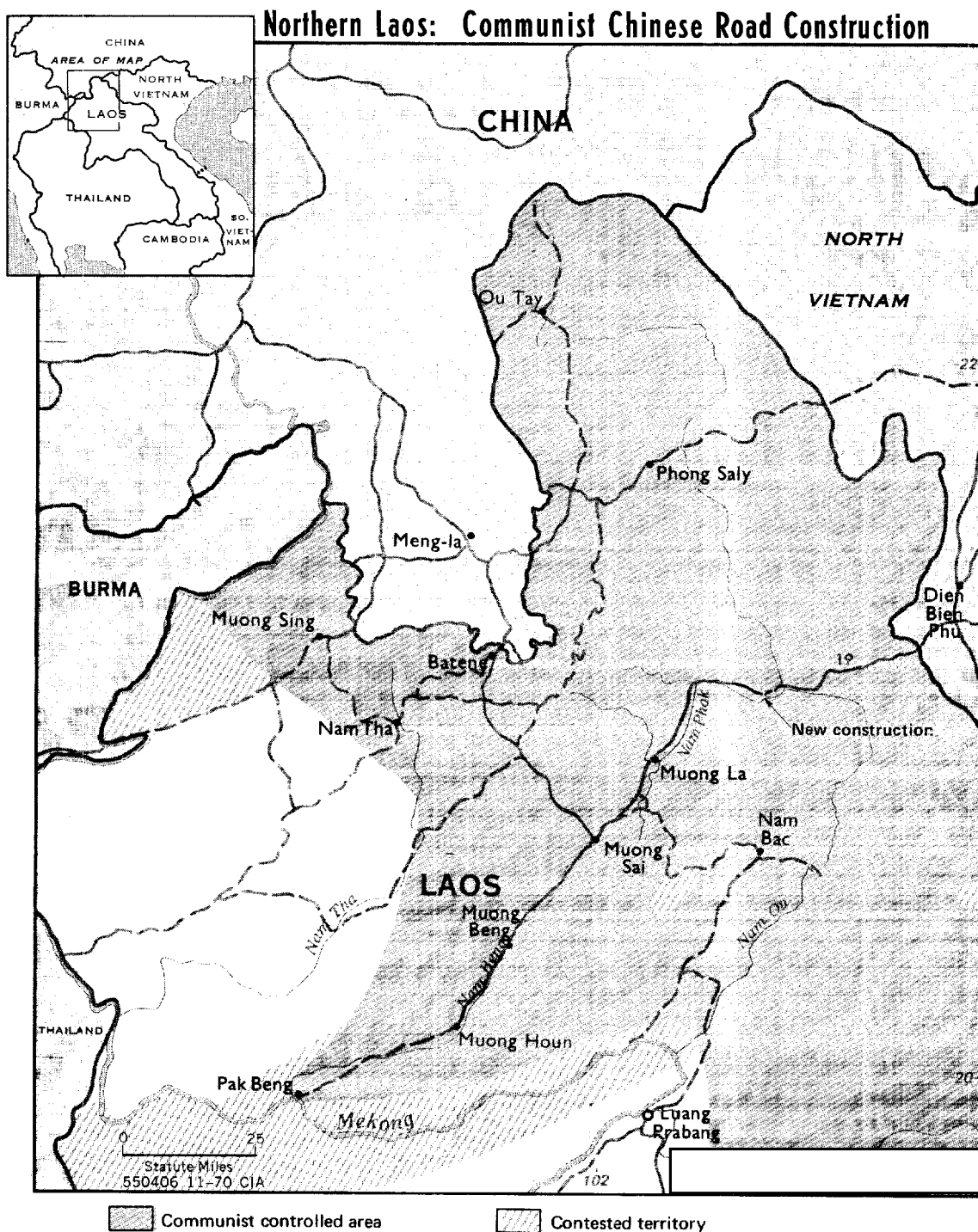
[REDACTED] The Soviets will provide pilot training to the Afghans.

The Soviets have been promoting the aircraft, which can carry 24 to 31 passengers, in the free world, but until now have met with little success.

[REDACTED]

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NOTES

COMMUNIST CHINA - LAOS: Chinese road builders apparently are giving first priority this dry season to completing a road linking northern Laos and North Vietnam. Late October photography reveals new intermittent survey traces under way along the final eight miles separating a road northeast from Muong Sai and Route 19 from North Vietnam. Roads from China via Muong Sai are motorable close to the present point of construction and a through road to North Vietnam could be ready by the end of the year. Elsewhere, repair and improvement of existing roads, including the Muong Sai - Muong Houn road, is continuing. The Communists have ample manpower and equipment in northern Laos to undertake any additional road construction decided upon. [REDACTED]

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[CHILE: The Marxists in Salvador Allende's government are quickly taking control of internal security and provincial government posts. Among Allende's first moves after assuming office yesterday was to name a Communist as the second-ranking official in the vital Ministry of Interior. Jose Toha, Allende's closest companion in his own Socialist Party, heads the ministry, which controls all police and investigative forces. Toha has used his prerogative to name new governors of the 25 provinces. They are divided in much the same proportion as the cabinet, with the choice posts going to the Communists and Socialists. The defense attaché has a reliable report that the three military commanders will be men already known to be acceptable to the President. The man named as head of the key national police force reportedly was selected for his malleability. [REDACTED]

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UN-KOREA: Staff members of the UN Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK) as well as the South Korean Government are concerned about a possible erosion of the agency's international standing. Pakistan and possibly Chile have been looking for an excuse to withdraw from UNCURK. For example, the outgoing Frei government has sent instructions that Chile is not to participate in tomorrow's UNCURK meeting. No substantial immediate effect on the voting pattern on Korean questions in the UN is likely, however. The General Assembly is expected to support once again the role of UNCURK.

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